Economic Development and Continuing Education

The Economic Development Division for West Georgia Technical College provides high-quality solutions for economic and workforce development via four major departments: Business & Industry, Corporate Training, Continuing Education, and Conference Centers.

Economic Development

Business & Industry provides high-quality solutions for economic and workforce development via Georgia Quick Start, Georgia Retraining Tax Credits, Georgia Work Ready, and a host of other services.

Georgia Quick Start is nationally recognized for providing high-quality training services at no cost to new or expanding businesses in Georgia that are preparing to hire a minimum number of net new employees in the same job classification for the manufacturing and warehouse and distribution industry or the service industry. Since 1967, Quick Start has provided customized training for hundreds of thousands of employees and for thousands of businesses and industries throughout the state.

Georgia Retraining Tex Credits are available to foster the profitability and competitiveness of Georgia’s existing businesses by encouraging workforce development through retraining tax incentives, helping companies offset the costs of retraining employees that are affected by the implementation of new equipment or new technology, and enhancing the skills of Georgia employees to enable them to successfully use new equipment, technology or operating systems. An eligible business may be granted tax credits equal to one-half of the direct cost of retraining, up to $500 per program per year per person, up to $1,250 per person per year, and up to 50 percent of the amount of the taxpayer’s income tax liability for the taxable year as computed without regard to this Code.

Georgia Work Ready was launched in August 2006 by Governor Sonny Perdue and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce to improve the job training and marketability of Georgia’s workforce and drive future economic growth for the state. Work Ready Certificates are available to individuals for free and are designed to provide an employer with valuable documentation that illustrates a job applicant’s ability to meet a minimum set of educational and skill standards based on Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze certificate ratings. Skills Gap Training also is available for free to individuals who want to improve their scores and gain a higher-level certificate. Customized Job Profiles are available to employers for free and are designed to provide valuable documentation that illustrates the minimum set of educational and skill standards for a specific position. By matching the customized job profile with an employee’s Work Ready Certificate, an employer can make reliable decisions about hiring and training. Results and incentives to the employer are typically associated with decreased employee turnover, decreased training, decreased cost for training, increased productivity and ultimately increased revenue.

Corporate Training Department

Corporate Training provides organizations with high-quality solutions for economic and workforce development via customized training that is specifically tailored to the request of an employer with regard to curriculum, scheduling and training delivery location. Training is then developed and delivered by professionals with relevant business and industry experience. An Online Education Center may even be customized for a specific company. Two of our most requested training programs include the Leadership Academy and the Industrial Maintenance Education Center.
Leadership Academy provides the Managerial & Supervisory Leadership Certificate that serves employers with a practical solution for succession management through a series of six-hour courses that may be customized based on the demand for specifically tailored courses including, but not limited to, Frontline Leadership & Mentoring, Managerial Leadership, Leadership Overview, Effective Meetings & Presentations, Business Communication & Writing, Excellence in Service & Performance, Organizational Behavior & Communication, Project Management, Teams, & Participation and Professional Ethics & Etiquette.

Industrial Maintenance Education Center is endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and designed specifically for the manufacturing industry by offering the Manufacturing Orientation Certificate and a variety of Industrial Maintenance Technician Certificates. Manufacturing Orientation Certificate is designed to introduce or reintroduce employees to the manufacturing industry. This program includes introductions to Lean Manufacturing, Waste, Value Stream, SS, Standardized Work, Automation (Jidoka), Heijunka (leveling production), Kanban, Customer and Supplier Relations, Kaizen, and Six Sigma. In addition, the Manufacturing Orientation Certificate includes the fundamentals of problem solving, work ethic, customer service, teamwork, plant safety, bloodborne pathogens, confined space, lockout/tagout, hazard communications, fire safety, electrical safety, ergonomics, personal protective equipment, and forklift awareness. The Industrial Maintenance Technician Certificate, which is endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education, is an innovative approach designed to introduce employees to industrial maintenance or enhance the skills of experienced industrial maintenance technicians. Programs are tailored based on a selection of specific industrial maintenance objectives. Each program comprises a series of five-hour courses that each begin with self-study interactive online training and conclude with a hands-on lab at the WGTC Carroll Campus. Plans are underway to also make it available in the near future at the WGTC LaGrange East Campus.

Continuing Education Department

Continuing Education provides high-quality solutions for economic and workforce development via thousands of non-credit training programs and courses designed for personal and professional development that are available through the Online, Healthcare, Computer, Professional Development, Personal Development, and Industrial Education Centers. Continuing Education also hosts an Assessment & Testing Center that facilitates exam delivery for industry recognized certifications and licenses including, but not limited to, those available from ACT, Pearson VUE, Prometric, Commercial & Structural Pest Control, Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS), Work Ready, National League for Nursing (NLN) and the Psychological Services Bureau (PSB) among others.

Conference Centers

Conference Centers provide high quality solutions for economic and workforce development via unique venues available at the Murphy Conference Center in Waco and Callaway Conference Center in LaGrange. These facilities offer convenient and practical accommodations for business meetings, office retreats, local and regional conferences, weddings, wedding receptions, family reunions and other events with up to 11,000 square feet and capacities for up to 650 people in banquet and 1,200 in auditorium seating. Callaway Conference Center, in partnership with the widely recognized Burson Center in Carroll County, also offers facility rentals and other services to assist new and existing small businesses and entrepreneurs.